

## OTHER NOTICES

**Chesterton, Mrs. Cecil.** *I Lived in a Slum.* London, 1936. Gollancz. Pp. 288. Price 6s.

DECENT housing is one of the fundamentals of good health and even the best stock will deteriorate in insanitary and inadequate surroundings. In this book Mrs. Chesterton gives specific facts and figures of the housing conditions in some of the wealthier and some of the poorer boroughs of London, where conditions in some parts must be seen to be believed. The problem can only be partially solved by the development of housing estates outside the Metropolis, for in the most congested areas, such as Westminster, dwell numerous workers whose occupation necessitates residence near it and who are at present forced to occupy basements and slums when able to afford better accommodation if available in the locality. The housing problem has many ramifications, and those enthusiasts who are pressing for schemes to tackle the whole situation immediately ignore the fact that feverish activity in the building and allied trades for a few years would be followed by a complete slump and extensive unemployment in those trades for many subsequent years.

This volume should be widely read, especially by the well-to-do, as it demonstrates very graphically the necessity of providing a more healthy environment for the people of London.

E. I. CORRY.

**Eickstedt, Egon Frhr. v.** *Grundlagen der Rassenpsychologie.* Stuttgart, 1936. Ferdinand Enke Verlag. Pp. 164. Price R.M. 6.80.

THE first general impression which one gets from the study of this book is that race psychology is a science in the making, and that Professor von Eickstedt has tried conscientiously to describe this process of formation. His attempt has been very successful. With great impartiality he sketches the various schools of psychology—German and foreign—their theories, methods and results. No author of any importance seems to be left out, the bibliography containing more than 400 names. Difficulties and controversial points are not passed over or minimized, and the disturbing influence of environmental factors is duly emphasized. Those who know Professor von Eickstedt's famous work *Rassenkunde und Rassengeschichte der Menschheit*\*—the new German standard work on physical and historical anthropology—will be bewildered at the change in his style. Two years ago it was scientifically correct, but beautifully clear and simple; now it has become dark and obscure. That is to be

regretted, for many readers may turn away discouraged from an otherwise very valuable book.  
C. TIETZE.

**Hinton, The Rev. J. P., B.A., and Calcutt, Josephine E., B.A.** *Sterilization.* A Christian Approach. London, 1935. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. Pp. 193. Price 5s.

BOTH authors have wide experience of social work and the practical aspects of the subject are well dealt with. Their style is lucid and by straightforward reasoning they conclude that Christian ethics do not forbid sterilization. The book can be strongly recommended; its wide circulation would be of great value to the causes of sterilization and eugenics.

H. B. AIKMAN.

**McNally, C. E.** *Public Ill Health.* London, 1935. Victor Gollancz Ltd. Pp. 224. Price 5s.

As the title of this book implies, it sets out to give the other side of the picture held up to the public gaze each year when the Ministry of Health publishes its annual survey called *The Public Health*. It is natural that in the latter publication the defects of the public health service should not be stressed, while our attention is directed to the undoubted progress made. Consequently, an air of complacency is noticeable and that has been particularly the case during the past few years. Lay and medical opinion has naturally been perturbed by the possibility of malnutrition as the result of economic depression. It was to be expected that if there was not enough money to purchase food malnutrition would show itself. We have been assured that it has not done so by the Ministry of Health.

This thesis Mr. McNally has set out to destroy, and he has used not his own opinions but quotations from the annual reports of local medical officers in support of his opinions. It must be confessed that the reading of this book does not make for complacency. In fact, as one nears the conclusion of the book it is not astonishing to come across the following quotation from Dr. R. A. Lyster, Lecturer in Public Health at St. Bartholomew's Hospital: "We read in the Report of the Ministry of Health that 'There was no available medical evidence of any increase in sickness or mortality owing to depression or unemployment.' If this evidence was not available at the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Health was the only place where it was not available."

A most disturbing book and one which suggests that the Ministry of Health does not plump either for nurture or nature.

V. H. MOTTRAM.

\* See EUGENICS REVIEW, XXVI, page 147.